



# Wall of Prayer

Christian Friends of Israel

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## Wall of Prayer January 2024- Kiryat Shmona

Located on the Israel-Lebanon border, Kiryat Shmona is a small village in the direct line of threat and fire should a war break out with Hezbollah in addition to the southern war front in Gaza with Hamas. The name of the community numbering just over 20,000 residents translates to “the Town of the Eight” which commemorates eight people who died in 1920 during the Battle of Tel Hai. The first 18 settlers were Yemenite Jews. Israel’s most northern city is predominantly now home to Jews of Moroccan descent, along with a few other nationalities.

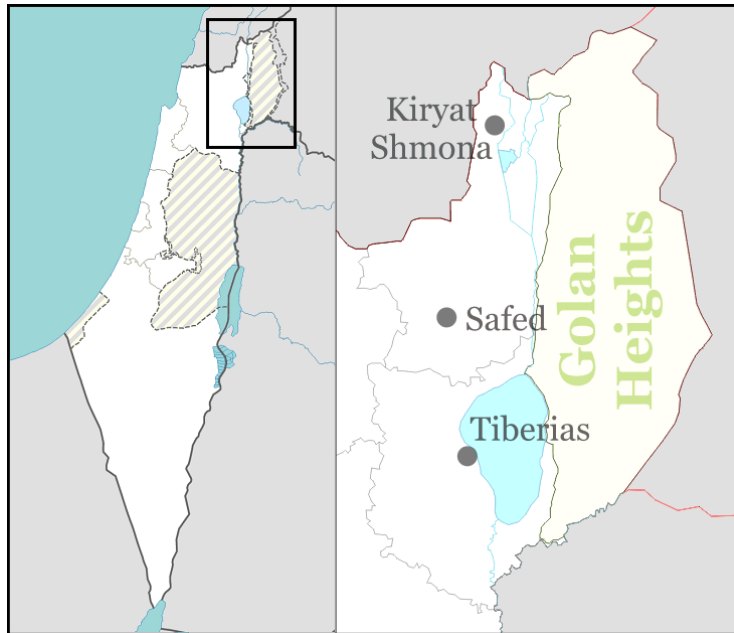
Kiryat Shmona residents are no strangers to the threat of attacks from Lebanon, choosing to bravely live in their settlements despite pervading war rhetoric. Constant aggressions and clashes with Hezbollah and other local radical terror operatives have become almost normal. It took Hezbollah approximately one day to join the Hamas war in what was a “show of solidarity with the Palestinian people,” as they sent rockets and shells on October 8, 2023, into the Shebaa Farms region of Israel less than 20 km away. Suicide drones, anti-tank missile fire, and rocket barrages have continued since October increasing in frequency and intensity.

On October 20th, residents of Kiryat Shmona were advised to evacuate by the Israeli government. Officials did not specify when the residents would be able to return home, except that they would only be able to do so once it was deemed safe enough. Some stayed wanting to help IDF soldiers or with evacuation efforts. Some left only to return, doing so at their own risk. Depending on where one lives in Israel, the time to seek shelter in the event of incoming rockets or missiles varies. In Jerusalem, one has 1.5 minutes to get to a bomb shelter or protected space once sirens are triggered, but in northern Israel, communities like Kiryat Shmona have less than 15 seconds. Because of this, some residents that have remained choose to simply sleep in their bomb shelters and safe rooms cutting the time to get to safety—a wise life-saving measure.

Though it appears the Lebanese government does not want war with Israel, Iranian-backed Hezbollah has not heeded the warnings of the US, Canada, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and the U.K, nor has UN Security Resolution 1701 been enforced. The resolution calls for several protections including the disarmament of Hezbollah militants along the Lebanese border with Israel. Israel’s allies have advised residents on the Lebanese side of the border to evacuate or risk casualties in the exchange of fire as Israel retaliates when attacked. At the time of this writing, two IDF brigades have been withdrawn from Gaza and may be relocated to the northern border in light of failed enforcement of the resolution.

Hezbollah claimed responsibility for a missile attack on a church the day after Christmas less than an hour’s drive from Kiryat Shmona. The incident left multiple IDF soldiers critically

wounded along with civilians and the priest of the Greek Orthodox church. Less than a week later, in the first hours leading into the Gregorian calendar year of 2024, Hezbollah also fired 30 rockets at Israel's northern border sending plumes of smoke up over the region.



A few weeks ago, the Wall of Prayer team collaborated to accompany our David's Shield team to deliver much-needed supplies to a very grateful supply sergeant on the northern front. The sergeant, married with two young children, stated he's been on full-time active duty since mid-day of October 7th. He had not left his post. He was very optimistic about the progress of the war, proudly telling our team, "Anytime you hear about an Israeli response in the north, that's us." We prayed for the protection of this brave soldier, his family, and the base where he is stationed.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiryat\\_Shmona#/media/File:Israel\\_outline\\_northeast.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiryat_Shmona#/media/File:Israel_outline_northeast.png)

During a visit to a major area known for wars since ancient times, we asked a local shop attendant about her thoughts on the war effort. We thought she'd want to see it end with no escalation in the north (this was before the uptick from Hezbollah). She expressed that she would never feel safe until the threat from Hezbollah was completely eradicated. She wants Israel to finish the job of securing the safety of the nation on every front, otherwise, the same cycle of terror will continue. In speaking with one of our local intercessors, a Messianic believer, we found her to have a different perspective. Her prayer has been that God would "contain and restrain" the northern aggressions that would escalate to a broader regional conflict involving Iran, and by default, the US.

There can be no returning to normal or status quo if that means going back to an evasive peace with genocidal-minded neighbors. There must be peace or every effort to secure it— nothing less will do. This is not the time to comprise as Israel has sacrificed and lost much. The nations may plot vain things, but in light of threats and peril, God answered His people saying, *"Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, and pity His people. The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations. "But I will remove far from you the northern army, And will drive him away into a barren and desolate land, with his face toward the eastern sea and his back toward the western sea; his stench will come up, and his foul odor will rise, because he has done monstrous things." Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done marvelous things (Joel 2:18-21, NKJV)!*



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiryat\\_Shmona#/media/File:KiryatShmonaPano.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiryat_Shmona#/media/File:KiryatShmonaPano.jpg)

### **Covering Kiryat Shmona in Prayer:**

**Pray** for projects addressing antiquated bomb shelters to be well-funded to completely refurbish and stock for families that have to occupy them for long periods (Romans 15:27).

**Intercede** for Kiryat Shmona Mayor and community officials. Ask God to make them strong, courageous, and wise in governing this resilient community against terror threats (Psalm 78:72).

**Ask** the Lord to protect and bless the residents with the necessary equipment to ensure safety on a practical level (Zechariah 9:8).

**Pray** for threats of the enemy to be quenched and for God's hand to stay the roar of the enemy (Isaiah 31:4-5).

**Push back** against a premature Ezekiel 38 regional conflict. The harvest is plentiful, and many hearts still need to be reached with the Good News. Ask God for uninterrupted access for laborers working in the nations, particularly the hard-to-reach, and that efforts would increase in these last days (Ephesians 6:10-12).

**Ask** in faith for all jihadi-spirit militants be freed from the terrorist yoke of oppression, thereby disintegrating the enemy's armies. Pray they will abandon their hatred, weapons, and allegiance to all demonic activities and influences and turn to the Prince of Peace for salvation (Acts 26:18).

**Pray for** displaced people and families all over the country that they would experience & receive God's comfort and strengthening arms & for His courage and hope to uphold them. (Deuteronomy 33:27-28)

### **Dear Watchmen:**

If not now, when? When is a good time to intensify prayer and intercession for Israel? Hostages remain in captivity while the voices of Israel's enemies are raised in the media. Giants... they do fall. Together in faith, we make a mighty army pulling down strongholds and arguments that defy the knowledge of God and His promises to Israel and the nations. Let's daily pray for Kiryat Shmona, the peace of Jerusalem, and the salvation of Israel as we look to the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, our Deliverer and Messiah!



Maranatha!  
Suzie Georges  
Wall of Prayer Coordinator